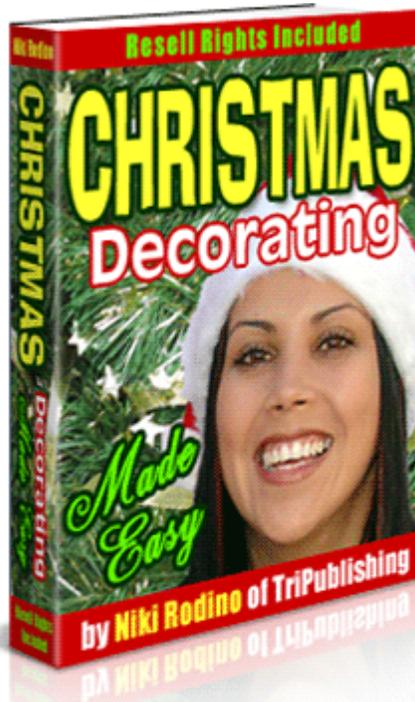


Christmas Decorating Made Easy



Brought to you by: **Andrea Barnett**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FROM THE PUBLISHER.....	2
MASTER RESELL RIGHTS LICENSE.....	3
RECOMMENDED RESOURCES	4
LEGAL NOTICES	5
TABLE OF CONTENTS	6
INTRODUCTION.....	7
CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS.....	8
CHRISTMAS CRAFTS	14
GENERAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING	20

INTRODUCTION

It's that time of year again – time to get your home ready for Christmas. Decorating can be overwhelming if you don't know where to start. This ebook will give you 51 great Christmas decorating ideas. Most of these ideas use things that you already have. It's Christmas decorating made easy! By the time you're done, your home will be all decked out and ready for Christmas.



CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATIONS



Most Christmas decorating starts with the Christmas tree. Whether you decorate your tree traditionally each year or you're looking for new ideas, this first set of tips will help you to make that Christmas tree shine.

1. Have More Than One

If you have room in your house, it's fun to put smaller trees in other rooms. A smaller tree in the kitchen, bathroom or bedroom can really unify your home. If you don't want to buy more trees, you can just save some branches from your big tree and put them in a flowerpot or decorated coffee can. Hang ornaments on the branches, and you instantly have a mini Christmas tree.

2. The More Decorations the Better

There's no such thing as too many decorations on your tree. If your ornaments are carefully selected and evenly spaced, the more decorated the better looking the tree.

3. Silk Flowers

Silk flowers are a great way to add color and beauty to your tree. You can choose different colors, or make them all white for a beautiful snowy effect.

4. Metallic Spray

You can paint pinecones, leaves and seedpods with metallic spray can really add to your decorations. Then you can evenly space them on your tree for a great new look.

5. Miniature Wreaths

You can find all kinds of miniature wreaths at craft stores. Add greenery, ribbons or berries with a glue gun, and tie a ribbon for hanging, and you have a great home-made tree decoration.

6. Ribbon Streamers

Instead of garland, try using ribbon streamers. All you do is attach Christmas colored ribbon or raffia to the top of the tree, then wind them down and around the tree until you get to the bottom.

7. Tree Topper

Traditional Christmas trees are usually topped with a star or an angel, but don't let this stop you from getting creative. Try to find a family heirloom, or an important object that represents your family, and use that as your tree topper.

8. Replace Wire Hangers

A simple way to make your tree look better is to replace all of your wire hangers on your ornaments with ribbon loops. You can choose just one color to unify all of them, or you can use lots of ribbon colors to add variety to your tree.

9. Home Made Garland

There are many creative ideas for making your own garland. Here are a few things you can use:

-  Popcorn
-  Floral vines
-  Cranberries
-  Pinecones
-  Seedpods

10. Christmas Cards

A simple tree decorating idea is to save your old Christmas cards and cut out the images from them. You can either attach ribbon right to the cutouts, or glue them to a jar lid and attach the ribbon to that.

11. Cookies

Decorating your tree with cookies is an old tradition, but a good one. All you need to do is bake gingerbread or shortbread cookies, let them cool

and hang them on your tree. Make sure to add a hole in the top for the ribbon.

12. Glitter

Almost any little toy or trinket can be dipped in glue and glitter and hung on a tree. It's a great way to turn "junk" into a great Christmas ornament.

Here are some things you can use:

-  Keys
-  Golf balls
-  Small toys
-  Paper clip chains
-  Corks

13. Origami

Origami is the art of folding paper, and it's a fun way to decorate your tree. You can find lots of ideas and directions at your library or the Internet.

Here are a few good ones:

-  Christmas Tree: <http://www.tammyyee.com/origamitree.html>
-  Santa Claus: <http://www.tammyyee.com/origamisanta.html>
-  Christmas Star: <http://www.yasutomo.com/project/paperstar.htm>
-  Angel: <http://tammyyee.com/origamiangel.html>

14. Party Streamers

Head to a party store for a fun idea to decorate your tree. Buy party streamers and hang them on the tips of your tree branches for a bouncy, festive tree.

15. Pipe Cleaners

Pipe cleaners are a wonderful simple way to decorate your tree. Just grab a bunch and start bending and shaping.

Here are a few ideas of shapes that you can make:

-  Stars
-  Snowmen
-  Snowflakes
-  Angels
-  Stockings
-  Candy Canes

16. Wired Bows

You can buy wired translucent ribbon at any craft store. Silver, gold and red are great colors. The ribbon is very pliable, so making bows with it is fun and easy. Remember that there's no wrong way to make a bow. Once the bows are to your liking, simply place them on your tree.

17. Toys

Toys are rarely thought of as Christmas decorations, but they can be great on the Christmas tree. If you go down the toy aisle of your local dollar store, you can get lots of ideas. If it's miniature, it'll look great on your tree.

18. Family Pictures

Make your family pictures a part of your Christmas tree. You can cut out wallet-size pictures with scrapbooking scissors, or cut shapes out of them and hang them on your tree. You'll find that this really personalizes your tree, and makes it your own.

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS



During the Christmas season, making your own decorations can be just as fun as displaying them. This next set of tips will give you some great Christmas crafts to make and display.

19. Snowmen

Snowmen are fun crafts to make, and there are endless ways to make them. Here are some ideas:



-  Use a sock, a rubber band and cotton filling
-  Three styrofoam balls
-  A craft-stick, buttons and felt (see above picture)
-  Use a cosmetic circle (see picture above)

20. Reindeer

Reindeer can be so fun to make at Christmas time.

Here are some simple ideas:



- 🔔 Use a clothespin and some googily eyes
- 🔔 Use an old light bulb and felt (see above picture)
- 🔔 Use a candy cane and pipe cleaners (see above picture)

21. Santa Claus

Invite Santa Claus into your home this year! There are tons of Santa ornaments that you can make.



Here are some ideas:

- 🔔 A painted light bulb and a Santa hat (see above picture)
- 🔔 An upside down sugar cone for his hat, a styrofoam ball for his face, and cotton balls for his ears
- 🔔 Use a sawed off mop – paint eyes on what's left of the handle, and use the mop as Santa's beard.

22. Snowflakes

Revisit a childhood favorite! Snowflakes are always fun to make, and will make your house look great. If you don't know how to make them, here's a good how-to site: <http://www.papersnowflakes.com/instructions.htm>

23. Paper Chains

Paper Chains are a great tradition to start and continue. They are super easy to make, kid friendly and can make any home more inviting.



Here are some places that you can put paper chains:

-  Christmas Tree
-  Mantel
-  Along the edges of a wall
-  Around windows
-  Around table edges

24. Stars

Making stars can be the simplest Christmas crafts that you can make.



Here are some ideas:

-  Craft sticks glued in the shape of a star (see above picture)
-  Cookies or dough in star shapes
-  Use beads and wire (see above picture)

25. Christmas Spiders

A Christmas Spider is a great holiday tradition. If you've never heard of the Legend of the Christmas Spider, read it here:

<http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/treeornaments//blxspdstory.htm>

Making a spider is fairly simple; you just need beads and wire. For full instructions, go to:

<http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/treeornaments//blxspidorn.htm>

26. Angels

Making Christmas angels are a fun way to bring the Christmas spirit into your home.



Here are some ideas:

- 🎄 Use an upside down sugar cone for her dress and a styrofoam ball for the head
- 🎄 Use a folded doily for her dress and a small wooden ball for her head (see above picture)
- 🎄 Beads and wire (see above picture and find instructions at http://www.make-stuff.com/projects/bead_angels.html)

GENERAL CHRISTMAS DECORATING



There are many more things that you can do in your home to bring out the Christmas spirit. This last set of tips covers simple things that you can do to make your home beautiful and inviting.

27. Ribbons

Ribbons really are a great way to compliment anything during the Christmas season. Red and green ribbon especially say Christmas, or you can also get ribbon that has Christmas print on it.

Here are some ways you can use it:

-  Tie them around all of your plants in the house
-  Tie them around the backs of chairs
-  Use ribbon like garland around your tree
-  Tie them around candles
-  Tie them on door handles
-  Tie them on banisters

28. Wreaths

Wreaths are fun at Christmas because there is such a variety to choose from. They also aren't just to hang on your front door. Here are some other places that you can hang wreaths:

-  On the outside and inside of the front and back doors
-  Above the mantel
-  In all of your windows
-  On your Christmas tree (miniature ones)

29. Foil

You can do many things with foil to make your home look more festive at Christmas. Here are some ideas:

-  Cover cardboard cut out stars
-  Cover your goodie plates
-  Use foil as wrapping paper
-  Wrap your plant pots in foil

30. Christmas Cards

There are lots of fun ways to display your Christmas cards. Here are a few:

-  Hang a ribbon from one corner of your room to the other and tape your cards to it
-  Form a Christmas tree with your cards on your front door
-  Buy a piece of glass to go on top of your coffee table and display your cards under it.

You can also recycle your old Christmas cards and make great ornaments out of them. Here are some ideas:

-  Cut out the pictures on them and make a Christmas collage
-  Buy a cheap Christmas photo album and place cutout pictures from your cards in it and display it.
-  Use the cutout images to make gift labels
-  Glue pictures from the cards to magnets and display them on your fridge

31. Dough

Kid's play dough is not only fun to play with, it also can make fun Christmas decorations. All you have to do is shape, let it dry, and maybe paint it. Here are some ideas:

-  Use cookie cutters and make tree decorations
-  Make your own Nativity
-  Make miniature "bulbs" and display them in a glass bowl
-  Make an advent chain (like you would with paper)

32. Pinecones

Pinecones can be fun to decorate with during the Christmas season. Here are a few things that you can do with them:

-  Spray paint them with silver or gold paint and display them on your tree
-  Use glue and glitter to decorate them and display them in a Christmas basket
-  Dip them in cinnamon scent and place them all over your home for a great Christmas aroma

33. Candy Canes

Candy canes aren't just for eating; they make great Christmas decorations. Here are some ideas:

-  Hang them on your tree
-  Use them to decorate gifts
-  Place a bunch in a slim vase with a bow around it
-  Place one or two in the dirt of all of your house plants

34. Popcorn

Popcorn is a cheap and creative way to decorate for Christmas. Here are a couple of ideas:

-  String them to make garland to put on your tree, window sills, banisters or walls
-  Make popcorn ball ornaments (they look like gigantic snowballs)
-  String the popcorn balls to make a bigger garland

35. Nativity Collections

Many people like displaying several different Nativity scenes during the Christmas season. This can be beautiful and also educational, especially if the Nativity scenes are from different countries.

36. Christmas Stockings

Christmas stockings aren't just for the mantel. Here are some other places that you can display them:

-  On your tree (miniature ones)
-  On gifts (again miniature ones)
-  In the kitchen as utensil holders
-  In the bathroom (put spare toilet paper in them)
-  On your stair banister

37. Christmas Bulbs

Christmas bulbs aren't just for the tree anymore. You can hang them all over your house. Here are some ideas:

-  Hang them on your mug hooks in the kitchen
-  Hang them from lamp switches
-  Hang them on doorknobs
-  Attach smaller ones to gifts

38. Glass Bowls

You'd be surprised at the decorations that you can make with just a simple glass bowl. Here are some great ideas:

-  Put some colorful candy or nuts in it and tie a bow around the bowl
-  Put your favorite Christmas bulbs in it
-  Put miniature bows in it
-  Put a bundle of cinnamon sticks wrapped in a bow in it

39. Cookie Cutters

Metal Christmas cookie cutters aren't just for making cookies. Here are a few things that you can do with them after you're finished baking:

-  Tie a ribbon around them and hang them on your tree and other places
-  Use them to make foil cutouts
-  Glue or tie 4 alike cookie cutters together in a circle to make a wreath

40. Candles

What's Christmas without candles? Candles make your home warm and inviting, especially during the Christmas season. Here are some ideas:

-  Decorate your candles with fabric paint
-  Tie Christmas ribbons around them
-  Place several small votive candles across your mantel – this looks great at night when they're all lit
-  Use clip-on candles on your Christmas tree (don't light them though as this is a fire hazard)

41. Christmas Books

Displaying Christmas books is a great way to decorate. You can put them on your coffee table, in your kitchen, or even in your bathroom. Another idea is to get a children's Christmas board book or pop-up book and stand it up open on the coffee table or mantel.

42. Railing and Banister

Do you have stairs in your house? Here are some creative ways to make that banister more festive:

-  Wrap garland around and through the railing
-  Wind Christmas lights around it
-  Wind greenery and berries around the rail
-  Wrap Christmas ribbon around it

43. Wrapping Paper

Wrapping paper isn't just for wrapping gifts. There are lots of other uses for it during the Christmas season.

Here are some ideas:

-  Wrap the pictures on your wall with wrapping paper, then hang them back up
-  Wrap your coffee table and put a bow on it
-  Wrap your front door and put a big bow on it
-  If you have a fish tank, cover the back of it with wrapping paper
-  Wrap up a bunch of boxes in a variety of sizes and stack them in a corner of your living room

44. Advent Calendars

Advent calendars are a fun way to keep track of the holiday season. The great thing about them is that they can be very simple or elaborate.

Here are a few ideas:

-  Use wooden two blocks with numbers on them – then every day in December, display the date with the blocks
-  Use a calendar made of felt with pockets – each day either take out or put in a candy cane
-  Use a simple paper chain
-  Use a big desk calendar – every day that goes by put a bow on that box

45. Cinnamon Sticks

Cinnamon sticks add fragrance and beauty to your home during the Christmas season. You can put them in vents to spread the fresh scent around your home. You can also bunch them up, tie them with a Christmas ribbon and display them everywhere.

46. Christmas Lights

Indoor Christmas lights add beauty and dazzle to every Christmas tree. But these lights can be put in other places as well. Here are some great places to put them:

-  Around the inside of your windows
-  Across your mantel
-  Down your stair banister
-  Strung on all of your house plants
-  Around the inside of your front door

47. Windows

There are lots of things that you can do to your windows to make them look festive. Here are some ideas:

-  Spray fake snow around the corners
-  Hang paper snowflakes
-  Paint holiday designs on them using washable paint or children's bath crayons
-  Make cool designs by making shapes with indoor Christmas lights inside the windows

48. Table Décor

Setting your table at Christmas time can really set the mood in your home.

Here are some things that you can do:

-  Use a red or green tablecloth
-  Sprinkle glitter or small cut outs on the table
-  Put a candle in the middle with a wreath around it
-  Make gingerbread man place cards
-  Wrap your table with wrapping paper
-  Simply set a big plate of Christmas cookies in the middle of the table

49. Doors

When Christmas decorating this year, don't forget your doors. Here are some fun ways to adorn your door:

-  Cover it with wrapping paper
-  Make a shape like a tree or a star out of Christmas lights
-  String garland around it
-  Hang bells or tie bows over the doorknob
-  Wrap your door in white paper with a big bow – have guests sign it as they visit

50. Bells

Bells are always fun at Christmas. Here are some fun things you can do with them:

-  Hang them around doorknobs
-  Glue them on clothespins and pin them on your tree
-  Make necklaces out of them – hang them on hooks or on the tree when you're not wearing them

51. Poinsettias and More

Don't forget the Christmas flowers! You can never have too many. Here's a few to keep in mind:

-  Poinsettias
-  Holly
-  Mistletoe
-  Rosemary